

# Taylor his Trauels:

From the Citty of *London* in  
England, to the Citty of  
*Prague* in *Bohemia*.

The manner of his abode there three weekes,  
*his obseruations there, and his returne*  
from thence:

How he past 600 miles downe the riuer of *Elue*, through  
*Bohemia, Saxony, Anhalt*, the Bishoprick of *Madeberge*,  
*Brandenberge, Hamburg*, and so to *England*.

With many relations worthy of note.

By *John Taylor*.

---



---

LONDON

Printed by *Nicholas Okes*, for *Henry Goffon*, and  
are to bee sold by *Edward Wright*.

1620.



*The Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> Algernon Capell,  
Earl of Essex, Viscount Maldon, &  
Baron Capell of Hadham. 1701*





*Reader take this in your way.*



*Pamphlet (Reader,) from the presse is hurld,  
That hath not many fellowes in the world:  
The maner's cōmon, though the matter's shallow,  
And 'tis all true, which makes it want a fellow.*

And because I would not haue you either guld  
of your mony, or deceiued in expectation, I pray  
you take notice of my plaine dealing; for I haue  
not giuen my booke a swelling bumbasted title,  
of a promising inside of newes; therefore if you  
looke for any such matter from hence, take this  
warning, hold fast your mony, and lay the booke  
downe: yet if you do buy it (I darē presume) you  
shall find somewhat in it worth part of your mo-  
ny; the troth is that I did chiefly write it, because  
I am of much acquaintance, and cannot passe the  
streets, but I am continually stayed by one or o-  
ther, to know what newes, so that sometimes I  
am foure houres before I can go the length of  
too paire of butts, where such non-sence or sence-

## To the Reader.

lesse questions are propounded to me, that calles many seeming wise mens wisdoms in question, drawing aside the curtaines of their vnderstanding, and laying their ignorance wide open. First *Iohn Easie* takes me, and holds mee fast by the fist halfe an houre, and will needes torture some newes out of me from *Spinola*, whom I was neuer neere by 500 miles; for hee is in the *Pallatinate* country, and I was in *Bohemia*. I am no sooner eased of him, but *Gregory Gandergoose*, an Alderman of *Gotham* catches me by the goll, demaunding if *Bohemia* bee a great towne, and whether there be any meate in it, and whether the last fleet of shippes be ariued there: his mouth being stop'd, a third examines mee boldly, what newes from *Vienna*, where the Emperours army is, what the Duke of *Bauaria* doth, what is become of Count *Buquoy*, how fares all the Englishmen; Where lies the King of *Bohemiaes* forces, what *Bethlem Gabor* doth, what tydings of *Dampeier*, and such a tempest of inquisition, that it almost shakes my patience in pieces. To ease my selfe of all which, I was inforced to set pen to paper, & let this poore pamphlet (my harrald or nuntius) trauell & talke, whilst



## To the Reader.

whilst I take my ease with silence. Thus much I dare affirme, that whosoever hee or they bee, that do scatter any scandalous speeches against the plenty in *Bohemia* of all manner of needfull things for the sustenance of man and beasts, (of the which there is more aboundance then euer I saw in any place else) or whatsoever they bee that report any ill successe on the Kings party, this little booke, and I the Author doth proclaime and proue them false lyers, and they are to be suspected, for coyning such falshoods, as no well-willers to the *Bohemian* prosperity. One thing I must entreate the Readers patience in reading one hundred lines; wherein, I haue kept a filthy stirre about a beastly fellow, who was (at my going from *England*, a piece of a *Grauesend* Constable) at which time hee did mee such wrong, as might haue drawne my life in question; for hee falsly sayd that I would haue fired their Towne. I did promise him a ierke or two of my penne at my returne; which now I haue performed, (not out of any mallice, but because I would bee as good as my word with him.) Thus crauing you to reade if you  
A 3 like,

## *To the Reader:*

like, and like as you list. I leaue you  
a booke much like a prating  
Gossip, full of many  
words to small  
purpose.

Yours, as you  
are mine.

John Taylor.





**TAYLORS TRAVELS FROM THE CITY**  
of *London* in England, to the City  
of *Prague* in Bohemia.

**I** Come from Bohem, yet no newes I bring,  
Of busines' twixt the Keyſar and the king:  
My Muſe dares not aſcend the lofty ſtaires  
Of State, or write of Princes great affaires.  
And as for newes of battells, or of war,  
Were England from Bohemia thrice as far:  
Yet we do know (or ſeeme to know) more heere  
Then was, is, or will euer be knowne there.  
At Ordinaries, and at Barbers ſhopps,  
There tydings vented are, as thick as hopps,  
How many thouſands ſuch a day were ſlaine,  
What men of note were in the battell ta'ne,  
When, where, and how the bloody fight begun,  
And how ſuch ſconces, and ſuch townes were won;  
How ſo and ſo the armies brauely met,  
And which ſide glorious victory did get:  
The month, the weeke, the day, the very houre,  
And time, they did oppoſe each others powre,  
Theſe things in England prating fooles do chatter,  
When all Bohemia knowes of no ſuch matter.

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

For all this summer, that is gone and past,  
Vntill the first day of October last,  
The armies neuer did together meete,  
Nor scarce their eie sight did each other greet:  
The fault is neither in the foote or horse,  
Of the right valiant braue Bohemian force,  
From place to place they daily seeke the foe,  
They march, and remarch, watch, ward, ride, run, goe,  
And grieuing so to waste the time away,  
Thirst for the hazard of a glorious day.  
But still the enemy doth play bopeepe,  
And thinkes it best in a whole skin to sleepe,  
For neither martiall pollicy, or might,  
Or any meanes can draw the foe to fight:  
And now and then they conquer, spoile and pillage,  
Some few thatcht houses, or some pelting village;  
And to their trenches run away againe,  
Where they like foxes in their holes remaine,  
Thinking by lingring out the warres in length,  
To weaken and decay the Beames strength.  
This is the newes, which now I meane to booke,  
He that will needes haue more, must needes go looke.  
Thus leauing warres, and matters of high state,  
To those that dare, and knowes how to relate,  
Ile onely write how I past heere and there,  
And what I haue obserued euery where,  
Ile truly write what I haue heard and eyed,  
And those that will not so be satisfied,  
I (as I meete them) will some tales deuise,  
And fill their eares (by word of mouth) with lies:

The



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

**T**He month that beares a mighty Emp'rours name,  
(Augustus hight) I passed downe the streame,  
Friday the fourth, Iust sixteene hundred twenty  
Full moone, the signe in Piscis, that time went I;  
The next day being saturday, a day,  
which all greate Brittain well remember may,  
When all with thanks do annually combine,  
Vnto th' Almighty maiesty diuine,  
Because that day, in a most happy season,  
Our Soueraigne was preserued from Gouries treason;  
Therefore to Churches people do repaire,  
And offer sacrifice of praise and praire,  
With bells and bonfires, euery towne addressing,  
And to our gracious King their loues expressing,  
On that day, when in euery nooke and angle,  
Faggots and bauins smoak'd, and bells did iangle:  
Onely at Graues-end, (why I cannot tell,)  
There was no sparke of fire, or sound of bell,  
Their steeple, (like an instrument vnstrung,)  
Seem'd (as I wish all scolds) without a tong,  
Their bonfires colder then the greatest frost,  
Or chiller then their charities (almost)  
which I perceiuing, sayd I much did muse,  
That Graues-end did forget the thankfull use,  
which all the townes in England did obserue;  
And cause I did the King of Brittain serue,  
I and my fellow, for our Maisters sake,  
would (neere the waters side) a bonfire make;  
With that a Scotch man, Tompson by his name,  
Bestowed foure faggots to increase the flame,  
At which (to kindle all) a Graues-end Baker,

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

Bestowed his bauine, and was our partaker:  
We 18 foote from any house retir'd,  
Where we a iury of good faggots fir'd;  
But ere the flame, or scarce the smoake began,  
There came the fearefull shadow of a man,  
The Ghost or Image of a Constable,  
Whose frantick actions (downeright dunce-stable,)  
Arm'd out of France and Spaine, with Bacchus bounty:  
(Of which ther's plenty in the Kentish county.)  
His adle coxcomb with tobacco puff'd,  
His guts with ale full bumbasted and stuff'd,  
And though halfe blind, yet in a looking glasse,  
He could perceiue the figure of an asse;  
And as his stamering chapps non-sence did stutter,  
His breath (like to a iakes) a sent did utter,  
His leggs indenting scarcely could beare vp,  
His drunken trunk (o're charg'd with many a cup.)  
This riff raff rubbish, that could scarcely stand,  
(Hauing a staffe of office in his hand,)  
Came to vs as our fire began to smother,  
Throwing some faggots one way, some another,  
And in the Kings name did first breake the peace,  
Commanding that our bonfire should succease.  
The Sotchman angry at this rudnes done,  
The scattered faggots he againe layd on:  
Which made the demy Constable go to him,  
And punch him on the brest, and outrage do him;  
At which a cuffe or twaine were giuen, or lent,  
About the eares, (which neither did content.)



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

But then to heare how fearefull the asse braid,  
With what a hideous noyse he houl'd for aid,  
That all the ale in Graues-end, in one houre,  
Turn'd either good, bad, strong, small, sweete, or soure:  
And then a kennell of incarnate currs,  
Hang'd one poore Thomson, like so many burrs;  
Haling him up the dirty streetes, all foule,  
(Like diuells pulling a condemned soule.)  
The iaylor (like the grand deu'll) gladly sees,  
And with an itching hope of fines and fees,  
Thinking the Constable, and his sweete selfe,  
Might drinke and quaffe with that ill gotten pelfe;  
For why such hounds as these, may if they will,  
Vnder the shew of good, turne good to ill;  
And with authority the peace first breake,  
VVith Lordly domineering or'e the weake,  
Committing (oft) they care not whom or why,  
So they may exercise themselves thereby,  
And with the iaylor share both fee and fine,  
Drowning their damned gaine in smoake and wine:  
Thus hirelings Constables, and iaylors may,  
Abuse the kings leige people night and day,  
I say they may, I say not they do so,  
And they know best if they do so or no.  
They hal'd poore Thomson all along the streete,  
Tearing him that the ground scarce touch'd his feete,  
which he perceiuing, did request them cease  
Their rudenes, vowing he would go in peace,  
He would with quietnesse go where they would,  
And prayed them from his throate to loose their hold.

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

Some of the townesmen did entreat them there,  
That they their barbarous basenes would forbear,  
But all entreaty was like oyle to fire,  
Not quench'd; but more inflam'd the scurvy squire.  
Then they afresh began to hale and teare,  
(Like mungrell mastifes, on a little Beare,)  
Leaving kind Tompson neither foote or fist,  
Nor any limb or member to resist,  
Who being thus oppress'd with odds and might,  
Most valiant with his teeth began to bite,  
Some by the fingers, others by the thumbs,  
He fang'd within the circuit of his gummes;  
Great pitty 'twas his chappes did neuer close,  
On the halfe Constables, cheekes, eares, or nose;  
His seruice had deseru'd reward to haue,  
If he had mark'd the peasant for a knave:  
Yet all that labour had away bin throwne,  
Through towne and country he's already knowne;  
His prisoner, he did beate, and spurn'd and kick'd,  
He search'd his pockets (I le not say he pick'd)  
And finding (as he sayd) no mony there,  
To heare how then the bellwether did sweare,  
And almost tearing Tompson into quarters,  
Bound both his hands behind him with his garters,  
And after in their rude robustious rage,  
Tide both his feete, and cast him in the cage,  
There all night he remained in low sie litter,  
Which for the Constable had bin much fitter,  
Or for some vagabond (that's sprung from Caine,)  
Some rogue or runagate, should there haue laine,  
And not a Gentleman that's well descended,  
That did no hurt, nor any harme intended:

But



## Taylor's Trauells to Bohemia

But for a bonfire in fit time and place,  
To be abus'd and vs'd thus beastly base.  
There did I leaue him till the morrow day,  
And how he scap'd their hands I cannot say.  
This piece of officer, this nasty patch,  
(whose vnderstanding sleepes out many a watch)  
Ran like a towne bull, roring vp and downe,  
Saying that we had meant to fire the towne;  
And thus the diuell his maister did deuise,  
To bolster out his late abuse with lies;  
So all the streete downe as I past along,  
The people all about me in a throng,  
Calling me villaine, traytor, rogue, and theife,  
Saying that I to fire their towne was cheife.  
I bore the wrongs as patient as I might,  
Vowing my pen should ease me when I write;  
Like to a grumbling cur, that sleepes on hay,  
Eates none himselfe, driues other beasts away,  
So this base fellow would not once expresse,  
Vnto his Prince, a subjects ioyfulnesse,  
But cause we did attempt it (as you see)  
H'imprison'd Thompson, and thus slandered me.  
Thus hauing eas'd my much incens'd muse,  
I craue the reader this one fault excuse,  
For hauing urg'd his patience all this time,  
With such a scuruy subiect, and worse rime;  
And thou Grauel-endian officertake this,  
And thanke thy selfe, for all that written is,  
'Tis not against the towne this tale I tell,  
(For sure there doth some honest people dwell.)

## Taylors Trauells to Bohemia.

he first let-  
ters of his  
names are R. L.  
and his full  
name being  
anagrama-  
z'd is A Tyo-  
eler, a trobe-  
r he was to  
be, and so I  
earche hath  
ene to my  
leader.

*But against thee, thou fiend in shape of man,  
By whom this beastly outrage first began,  
Which I could do no lesse, but let thee know,  
And pay thee truely what I long did owe,  
And now all's euen betwixt thou and I,  
Then farrewell and be hang'd, that's twice God buy.*

Sunday the 26 of *August* we set sayle from *Graues-end*, and with various windes, some large and some scarce, we happily past the seas, and sayled vp the riuer of *Maze*, by the *Brill*, and on the wednesday following I arriued at *Rotterdam* in *Holland*, at which time the worthy regiment of the right honorable Colonell Sir *Horace Veare*, and the two noble Earles, of *Essex*, and *Oxford* departed from thence in Martiall Equipage toward the *Pallatinate* Country, whose Heroick and Magnanimous endeauors, I beseech the Lord of hosts, and God of battells to direct and blesse.

The same day I went to the *Hage*, and from thence to *Leyden*, where I lodged all night, and the morrow being thursday the 30 of *August*, I sayled from *Leyden*, to *Amsterdam*, where I saw many things worthy the noting, but because they are so neere and frequent to many of our Nation, I omit to relate them, to auoid teadioufnes: but on the friday at night I got passage from thence towards *Hambrogh*, in a small hoy, in the which wee were weather-beaten at sea three dayes and nights before wee arriued there.

Saterday the eight of *September* I left *Hambrogh*, and being carried day and night in waggons, on the munday night following I came to an ancient towne called  
*Heldechim*,



## Taylor Trauells to Bohemia.

*Heldeſheim*, it ſtandeth in *Brunſwick* land, and yet it belongeth to the Biſhop of *Collin*, where I did obſerue in their *Dooſe Kirke*, or Cathedrall Church, a crowne of ſiluer 80 foote in compaſſe, hanged vp in the body of the Church, in the circuit of which crowne were placed 160 wax candles, the which on feſtiuall dayes, or at the celebration of ſome high ceremonies are lighted to lighten their darkneſſe, or their ignorance, chuſe yee whether.

Moreouer there I ſaw a ſiluer bell in their ſteeple, of ſix hundred and 30 l. weight, and the Leades of their ſteeple, ſhining and ſparkling with the Sun beames, they did affirme to mee to bee gold, the truth of which I am doubtfull of.

In this towne I ſtayed foure dayes, and on friday the 14 of *September*, I went ſix dutch miles to the ſtrong towne of *Brunſwick*, where by reaſon of my ſhort ſtay, which was but two houres, I obſerued nothing worthy of memory, but their triple walls, and double ditches, their artillery and fortifications, which they thinke to be impregnable; beſides, there I ſaw an old houſe of the Duke of *Brunſwicke*, with the ſtatue of a golden lyon, of a great bigneſſe, ſtanding aloft vpon a pillar, with the broken walls, and houſes, which the Dukes Cannon hath left there ſix yeares ſince, as tokens and badges of his fury, and their rebellion.

From thence on the morrow I went one dutch mile further, to an ancient towne called *wolfenbuttle*, where the Duke of *Brunſwick* keepes his Court, in the which I and my fellow could get no further admittance, then ouer a bridge into his outtermoſt, or baſe court; for his ſouldiers, ſeeing vs with ſwords and piſtolls, were feare-

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

full, belike, that wee would haue taken the fortresse from them, and therefore though wee were but two Englishmen, yet they durst not let vs enter; which made mee call to remembrance the frequent, and dayly Egresse and Regresse, that all people and nations haue to his Maiesty royal Court of great *Brittaine*, where none that are of any good fashion or aspect are debar'd entrance: when those inferiour Princes houses are garded with hungry Halberdiers, and reuerend rusty bil-men, with a brace or two of hot shots, so that their pallaces are more like prisons, then the free & noble courts of cōmanding potentates.

After two dayes entertainnient at *wolfenbuttle*, with an English Merchant residing there, of good fame and credit, named Maister *Thomas Sackville*, I with my brother, my fellow *Tilbery*, and another man in my company departed from thence on foote, onward on our iourney towards *Bohemia*, in which trauell, what occurrences hapned, and what things of note I saw, were as followeth.

Passing with many weary steps, through the townes of *Rosondink*, *Remling*, *Soolem*, *Hessen Darfarn*, and *Haluerstadt*, (which is all in *Brunswick* land,) but this towne of *Haluerstadt* belongs to a Bishop so stiled, who is Duke *Christian* brother to the now Duke of *Brunswick*, a long dutch mile (or almost six English) is a small towne or a Bleck called *Groning* belonging to the Duke, in the which place I obserued two things worthy of remembrance.

First a most stately Pallace built with a beautiful Chappell, so adorned with the images and formes of Angells, and Cherubins, with such exquisitenes of arts best industry of earuing, graining, goulding, painting, glasing, and pauing,



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

paving, with such superexcellent workmanship of organs, pulpit and font, that for curiosity and admirable rareness, all the buildings, and fabricks that ever I beheld, must give it preheminance. I confesse that *Henry* the seventh's Chappell at *Westminster*, Kings Colledge Chappell in *Cambridge*, and Christs Church in *Canterbury*, are beyond it in height and workmanship of stone: for indeed this Chappell is most of wood gipps, and plaster of *Parris*; but it is so gilded as if it had bin made in the golden age, when gold was esteemed as dross, so that a man had need to weare a vaile over his dazeling eyes, or else he can hardly looke vpon it.

The caruing and painting seeme to outgo the arts of *Pigmalion*, *Apelles*, or *Praxiteles*; the paving of chequered blacke and white marble, and the windowes glassed with Christall: but all this great cost and shew is very little to the honor of God, or the propagation of the Gospell, the edification of the ignorant. For in this Chappell of ease, there is no Service. If the painted pulpit could preach, the dumbe images might (perhaps) haue a sermon now and then; for scarce at any time there comes any body into the Chappell, but a fellow that shewes the beauty of it for two pence or three pence apiece.

In the same house, in a place or celler built of purpose, is a great tonne or vessell of wood, that was 7 yeares in making, and hath vsed to be filled with Rhenish wine: it is sayd to bee twice as bigge as the vessell at *Heidelberg*, and the hoopes of it are twelue inches thick, and the staues or bordes of it being as much: I went vp to the top of it, with a ladder of 18 steps, hee that keepes it saith it will hold 160 tonnes. My fellow *Tilbery* did creepe in at

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

the tap hole; it is in length 32 foote, and in breadth  
acroſſe 19, and verily I thinke that bable coſt more mo-  
ny the making, then would haue built a good ſhip, or  
founded an almes houſe for 6 poore people.

*This is a Tub of Tubs, Tub of Tubs Hall,  
who n'ere had fellow yet, nor euer ſhall;  
O had Diogenes but had this a Ton,  
He would had thought that he more roome had won,  
Then Alexanders conqueſts, or the bounds  
Of the vaſt Ocean, and the ſolid grounds.  
Or had Cornelius but this tub, to drench  
His clients that had practiſ'd too much French,  
A thouſand hogſheads then would haunt his firkin,  
And Miſtris Minks recouer her loſt mirkin.  
This mighty caſk great Bacchus uſ'd too ſtride,  
When he to drunkards hall did often ride;  
And in this barrell he did keepe his court,  
Bathing himſelfe in Rheniſh for diſport.  
But now theſe 8 yeares it hath dry bin kept;  
In it the wine-god hath nor piſt or wept;  
That now the Cappell, and the caſk combine,  
One hath no preaching, t'other hath no wine.  
And now the uſe they put it to is this,  
'Tis ſhew'd for mony, as the Chappell is.*

From Groning wee trauelled to a towne called *Aſchers  
Leauen*, to *Aſbleauen*, to *Kinderne*, to *Hall*, and ſo to *Leip-  
zig*, which is one of the chiefeſt townes in *Saxony*, being  
famous for a yearely Mart that is yearely held there,  
whereto Merchants and other people from the moſt part  
of



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

of Christendom haue annual concourse: in this towne we stayd two dayes, and taking our leaue then of some English Merchants, who vsed vs kindly, we there would haue hired a coach or waggon to *Prague*; but all the *Saxon* coach-men and carters were afraid to looke vpon any part of *Bohemia*, because their Duke is a profest enemy in armes against the King of *Beame*, so that we were forced to hire a fellow with a wheelebarrow two dayes to carry our cloakes, swords, guns, pistolls, and other apparell and luggage which were our necessities, to a towne called *Boorne*, to *Froburge*, and so to another towne called *Penigh*, where wee cashiered our one-wheel'd coach, and hired a cart with two, which carried both vs and our baggage to *Chemnitz* another towne in *Saxony*, from whence to a place called *Shop*, wee were faine to bee our owne sumpter horses, walking on foote to the last towne in *Saxony*, called *Marienberg*. From thence passing vp and downe inaccessible mountaines, we came to a wood, which parts *Bohemia* from *Saxony* on the west, which wood is called by the people of those parts the *Beamer Wolts* or *Wolt*, and is in breadth 10 English miles, and in length further then I know how to describe truely: but this much of it I dare affirme, that it is a naturall impregnable wall to the kingdome of *Bohemia*, which kingdome is all incompass round with woods and mountaines, so that there is no passage on that side of it, for any army to enter into it with munition and artillery, all the wayes being vneuen, and the mountaine tops all boggs, mosses, and quagmires, that great ordnance or any heavy cariage either of horse, cart or waggon, will sinke and be lost. Besides, there are numbers past numbring of Firre trees, many

C 2

standing

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

standing, and such store fallen of themselves, that any passage might easily be stopped by laying them crosse the way. And of all my iourney, the trauell through that dismall wood was the most heavy vnto mee, for the trees grew so thicke, and so high, that the sunne was obscured, and the day seemed night; in some places, the way paved with swimming trees 2 miles together on the tops of hills, which now and then I slipping besides, sunke to the middle in a quagmire.

When wee had thus footed it, and trauelled past the hills and woods, (being at the least 4 houres toyle) and that wee might looke downe the mountaines into the fruitfull land of *Bohem*, neuer did sight more reioyce vs, the lower hills being all full of Vineyards, and the val- lies, corne and pasture; not an English mile distance, but a village euery way; and twenty, thirty, or forty reekes or stacks of corne which their barnes cannot hold, in the space of euery houres iourney: in a word, euery thing that belonged to the vse and commodity of man was and is there, and al the delightfull obiects to satissie euery sence is there abundantly, so that nature seemed to make that Country her storehouse or granary, for there is nothing wanting except mens gratitude to God for such blessings.

The first night we lodged there at a pretty towne called *Comoda*, which towne by negligence and occasion of fire had fifty houses burnt two dayes before our coming thither, it being eleuen dutch miles from *Prague*. There we hired a wagon 7 dutch miles to a towne called *Slowne*, from whence we walked on foote a long 16 English miles to *Prague*, which long looked for the Cittie wee could not see vntill we came within an houres trauell of  
it



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

it: within halfe a dutch mile is a fearefull place, being frequented with inhumaine and barbarous murderers, that assault travellers, first shooting and murdering them, and after searching their pockets, where if they haue mony or not, all is one, it is but so many flaine: for these villaines haue a wood, and a deepe valley to shelter themselves in, that they are hardly taken afterwards; but if they chance at any time to be but apprehended, they are racked and tortured to make them confesse, and afterwards their executions are very terrible. But (I thanke God) wee past that place, and many other as dangerous as that, where some were robbed and murdered (as report told vs) both before vs, behind vs, and on each side: and we saw in our iourney aboute seauen score gallowfes and wheeles, where thieues were hanged some fresh, and some halfe rotten, and the carkases of murtherers, broken limb after limb on the wheeles; and yet it was our happines onely to see the dead villaines, and escape the liuing.

I came into *Prague* on thurseday the seauenth of *September*, whither if I had come but the friday before, I had seene a most fearefull execution of two notorious offenders; the manner how, with their faults, as it was truely related to me by English Gentlemen that saw it, I thinke it not much impertinent to relate.

The one of them being taken, apprehended and racked, for ripping vp aliue a woman with child, and for taking the infant out of her body, did sowe a liuing puppy into her belly; all which hee confessed hee did to make properties for wichcraft: and beeing further tortured, hee confessed when and where hee had committed 35. murthers more: the other in respect of him was but a petty offender,

offender, for he in all his life time had murthered but 14. For the which execrable facts, their deserved executions were as followeth: First, they were brought out of the Iayle naked from the girdle vpward; and so being bound fast on high in a cart, that the spectators might see them; then the Hangman hauing a panne of coales neere him, with red hot pincers nip'd off the nipple of one brest; then he tooke a knife and giues him a slash or cut downe the backe on one side, from the shoulder to the waste; and presently gaue him such another slash, three inches from the first; then on the top he cut the slashes into one; and presently taking pincers, tooke hold of the crosse cut, and tore him downe like a Girse below the middle, letting it hang downe behind him like a belt: after which he tooke his burning pincers, and pluck'd off the tops of his fingers of one hand: then passing to another place of the Towne, his other nipple was plucked off, the other side of his back so cut and mangled, (which they call by the name of rimming, (if it had beene riming, I would neuer haue written but in prose) his other fingers nip'd off; then passing further, all his toes were nip'd off with the burning pincers: after which he was enforced to come out of the cart, and goe on foote vp a steepe hill to the Gallowes, where he was broken with a wheele, aliue, one boie after another, beginning at his legs and ending with his neck, and last of all quartered and layd on the wheele, on a high post, till Crowes, Rauens, or consuming time consume him.

This was the manner of both their executions, but I speake but of the greatest murtherer particularly, because it is reported, that all these torments neuer made him  
once



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

once to change countenance, or to make any signe or action of griefe, to call to God for mercy, or to entreate the people to pray for him; but as if he had beene a senselesse stocke or stone, he did most scornefully, and as it were in disdain abide it: whilst the other villaine did crye, rore, and make lamentation, calling vpon God often; the difference was not much in their liues, and manner of their deaths, but I am perswaded the odds was great in their dying.

The City of *Prague* is almost circular or round, being diuided in the middle by the riuer of *Moldoue*, ouer which is a faire stone Bridge, of 600. paces ouer, and at each end a strong gate of stone: there is said to be in it of Churches and Chappels, 150. for there are great numbers of Catholiques, who haue many Chappels dedicated to sundry Saints, and I was there at foure seuerall sorts of diuine exercises; viz. at good sermons with the Protestants, at Masse with the Papists, at a Lutherans preaching, and at the Iewes Synagog; three of which I saw and heard for curiosity, and the other for edification.

The Iewes in *Prague* are in such great numbers, that they are thought to be of men, women and children, betwixt 50. or 60000. who doe all liue by brocage and vsury vpon the Christians, and are very rich in money and Jewels, so that a man may see tenne or twelue together of them, that are accounted worth 20. 30. or 40000. l. a piece; and yet the slaues goe so miserably attired, that 15. of them are not worth the hanging for their whole wardrobe.

The Castle where the King and Queene doe keepe their Court, is magnificent and sumptuous in building,  
C 4 strongly

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

strongly situated and fortified by nature and art, being founded on a high hill, so that at pleasure it keeps the towne in command, and it is much more spacious in roomes for receipt in gardens and orchards, then the Towre of *London*. I was in it dayly the space of 20 dayes, and saw it royally graced with the presence of a gracious King & Queen, who were honorably attended by a gallant courtly traine of Lords and Ladies, and Gentles, of the high *Dutch* and *Bohemians*, and where was free & bountifull entertainment to strangers in abundance: I must ever humbly and thankfully acknowledge the Queenes Maiesties goodnesse towards mee, whose undeserved fauours were helpful vnto me both there, and in my tedious iorney home-ward. Moreouer there I saw (and had in mine armes) the King and Queenes yongest son, Prince *Robert*, who was borne there on the 16 of *December* last: a goodly child as euer I saw of that age, whom with the rest I pray God to blesse; to his glory and his Parents ioy and comfort.

*There (for a token) I did thinke it meete,  
To take the shoes from off this Prince his feete:  
I doe not say I stole, but I did take,  
And whilst I liue I le keepe them for his sake:  
Long may his Grace liue to be stylde a man,  
And then I le steale his bootes too, if I can.  
The shoes were upright shoes, and so was he  
That wore them, from all harme upright and free:  
He vsde them for their vse, and not for pride,  
He neuer wrong'd them, or ne're trod aside.  
Lambskin they were, as white as Innocence,  
(True patternes for the footsteps of a Prince,)*

*And*



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

*And time will come (as I do hope in God)  
He that in childhood with these shoes was shod,  
Shall with his manly feet once trample downe,  
All Antichristian foes to his renourne.*

The citty of *Prague*, hath in it (by reason of the wars) thrice the number of it's owne inhabitants, and yet for all that, victuals is in such great plenty, that 6 men cannot eate three halfe penny worth of bread, and I did buy in the market a fat goose well roast for the vallew of nine pence English, and I and my brother haue dined there at a Cookes with good roasted meate, bread and beere, so that we haue bin satiffied and left, for the vallew of fve pence: a good turky there may bee bought for two shillings, and for fresh fish I neuer saw such store, for in one market day I haue knowue in *Prague* 2000 carps, besides other fishes, which carps in *London* are fve shillings a piece, and there they were for eight pence, or ten pence at the most, so that one of their fresh fish markets heere were worth at the least 5 or 600 pounds, and as for all other manner of wild foule, they are there in satiety, besides their fruites are in such abundancethat I boght a basket of grapes of the quantity of halfe a pecke for a penny & farthing, & a hat-ful of faire peaches for as much, pickled cowcumbers I haue bought a pecke for three pence, and muskmellons, there hath bin cast fve or six carts load of them in one day to their hoggs.

As concerning the dyet that is in the Kings armies, I could neuer yet heare any man complaine of want, but that it is more plentiful then in the citty, the greatest scarcity hath bin to some sicke souldiers, who being not able to march with the leaguers (by reason of their weakenes) they haue bin left amongst the Boores, or hus-

D

bandmen

## Taylors Trauells to Bohemia.

bandmen in the next villages, where their languages not vnderstood, their succour hath bin but small, but for all this in the campe hath euer bin a continuall cheapnes of all things, the King most duely paying his souldiers at the end of euery month, hauing in his great leguer, vnder the conduct of the Princes of *Hollock* and *Anhalt*, of foote and horse 43000, and at the least of carts and waggons to carry prouision, and baggage for the army, to the number of 18000. In his little leguer vnder the leading of Count *Mansfelt* there are of foote and horse 7000, besides carrs and waggons for carriage, and yet for these great numbers of men and beastes, there is food in all abundance.

In the campe with *Graue Mansfelt* is the *Brittane* regiment vnder their Colonel Sir *Andrew Gray* Knight, and in *Prague* I met with many worthy Gentlemen and souldiers, which were there sicke, as the worthy Captaine *Busbell*, Lieutenaut *Grimes*, Lieutenaut *Langworth*, Ancient *Galbreath*, Ancient *Vandenbrooke*, Maister *Whitney*, Maister *Blundell* and others, all which did most courteously entertaine me, vnto whom I must euer rest thankful, and they do affirme that now it hath pleased God to grant their souldiers recouery, that they do hope euery *Brittane* souldier doth retaine more good spirit, then 3 enemies of what nation soeuer.

Thus hauing shewed part of the best things in *Bohemia*, the Court and Citty of *Prague*, it shall not be amisse if I relate a little merily, of some things there tolerable, some intollerable, some naught and some worse then naught; for as euery rose hath a prickle, and euery Bee a sting, so no earthly kingdome hath such perfection of goodnesse, but it may be iustly taxed with imperfections.

Prague



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

Prague is a famous, ancient, kingly seate,  
In situation and in state compleate,  
Rich in abundance of the earths best treasure,  
Proud and high minded, beyond bounds or measure,  
In Architecture stately; in Atire,  
Bezonians and Pleibeians do aspire,  
To be apparell'd with the stately port  
Of worship, honor, or the royall court;  
There coaches, and carroches are so rife,  
They do attend on euery trades mans wife,  
Whose husbands are but in a meane regard,  
And get their liuing by the ell or yard,  
How euer their estates may be defended,  
Their wiues like demy ladies are attended:  
I there a Chimney sweepers wife haue seene,  
Habillimented like the diamond Queene,  
Most gaudy garish, as a fine maid marrian,  
With breath as sweete as any suger carrion,  
With sattin cloake, lin'd through with budg, or sable,  
Or cunny furre (or what her purse is able)  
With veluet hood, with tiffanies, and purles,  
Rebatoes frizlings, and with powdred curles,  
And (lest her hue or sent should be attainted,  
She's antidoted, well persum'd and painted,  
She's fur'd, she's fring'd, she's lac'd and at her wast,  
She's with a massie chaine of siluer brac'd,  
She's yellow starch'd, she's ruff'd, and cuff'd, and muff'd,  
She's ring'd, she's braceleted, she's richly tuff'd,  
Her petticoate good silke as can be bought,  
Her smocke, about the taile lac'd round and wrought,  
Her gadding legges are finely spanish booted,  
The whilst her husband, like a slaue all sooted,

## Taylors Trauells to Bohemia.

*Lookes like a courtier to infernall Pluto,  
And knowes himselfe to be a base cornuto.  
Then since a man that liues by chimney sweepe,  
His wife so gaudy richly clad doth keepe,  
Thinke then but how a Merchants wife may go,  
Or how a burgamaisters wife doth show;  
There (by a kind of topsie turuy vse.)  
The women weare the bootes, the men the shooes,  
I know not if t be profit, or else pride,  
But sure thare oft ner ridden then they ride:  
These females seeme to be most valiant there,  
Their painting shewes they do no colours feare,  
Most art-like plastring natures imperfections,  
With sublimated, white and red complexions;  
So much for pride I haue obserued there,  
Theire other faults are almost euery where.*

Thus hauing stayd in Prague almost 3. weekes, I returned from thence homeward, on tuesday, the 26. of September, hauing in my company three Gentlemen, a widow (and foure small children) whose husband being an English man, and the Kings Brewer for Beere, deceased, and was buried there in Prague whilst I was there: the good desolate woman hauing receiued reward after seuen yeares seruice there and at Heidelberg, being desirous to retire to her countrey (England) came with vs, with my brother, and my fellow Tilbery. We tooke two Coaches at the Castle of Prague, & in a day and halfe, we were carried seuen Dutch miles, to a Towne in Bohemia (standing on the riuer of Elue) called Leutmeritz, at which Towne we all layd our moneyes together, and bought a boate of 48. foote in length, and not 3. foote in bredth, and because we did not know the riuer, wee hired a Bohemian waterman to guide vs 15. dutch miles, to the Towne of

Drea-



## Taylors *Trauells* to Bohemia.

*Dreafon* in *Saxony* But 4. miles short of that Town, which was the first Towne in the Saxon Countrey, called *Pirne*, where we were stayed 5. houres without the gates, til such time as the Burgamaster wold be pleased to examin vs: in the meane space our waterman (not daring to abide the terrible triall of examination, because the Duke of *Saxon* was in Armes against the King of *Beame*) hee ran away, and left vs to bring the boate downe the riuer, 600. English miles our selues to *Hamburgh*.

But now to close vp all, I will relate what rare dyet, excellent cookery, and sweete lodging we had in our iourney in *Germany*: first for our comfort, after very hard getting of houseroome, our lodgings was euery night in straw, where lying together well littered, we honestly alwayes left our sheetes behind vs: then at our suppers at a table square, and so broad, that two men can hardly shake hands ouer it, we being some twelue about it. Our first dish being a raw cabbadge, of the quantity of halfe a pecke, cut and chopped small, with the fat of resty bacon powred vpon it in stead of oyle; which dish must be emptied before we could get any more: Our second dish perhaps, a peck of boylde Apples and honey, the Apples being boyled skins, stalkes, cores, and all: Thirdly, 100. Gudgeons, newly taken perhaps, yet as salt as if they had beene three yeares pickled, or twice at the East Indies, boyled with scales, guts and all, and buried in Ginger like sawdust: a fresh pike as salt as brine, boyled in flat milke, with a pound of Garlick. This was the manner of the most part of our dyet; and if we did aske them why they did salt their meate so vnreasonably, their answere was, that their beer could not be consumed, except their meat were salted extraordinarily.

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

If a man doe finde fault or seeme distasted with their beastly dyet, he is in danger to be thrust out of doores, and take vp his lodging in the streetes : and in the conclusion when dinner or supper is ended, then comes mine Host, or his leather lip'd Froe, with a sawcy reckoning of what they please, which sounds in our eares like a harsh Epilogue, after a bad playe ; for what they say wee must pay, their words are irrevocable ( like the ancient Kings of *Persia* ) and we must not question or aske how and how it can bee so much, but pay them their demand without grumbling to halfe a farthing.

Which made me call to minde fixe severall principals, that doe belong to a traveller, as patience, silence, warinesse, watchfulnesse, a good stomacke, and a purse wel moneyed ; for if he want any one of these, ( perhaps ) the other five will neuer bring him to his iournies end. A mans patience must be such, that ( though he be a Barron ) he must beare all abuses, either in words, lodging, dyet, or almost any thing, though offered from or by a sowter, a tinker, or a Merchant of tripes & turneps ; his silence must be, that though he heare & vnderstand himselfe wronged, yet he must be as dumbe as a Gudgeon or a Whiting mop : and though his mouth be shut, his warinesse must be such, that his eares must be euer open, to listen and over-heare all dangers that may bee plotted against him : his watchfulnesse must be so, that he must feldome sleep with both his eyes at once, lest his throat be cut before he wake againe. But for his stomacke, hee must eate grasse with a horse, and drasse with the hogges, for hee that cannot eate pickl'd herring broth, and dirty puddings, shall many times fast by authority, and goe to bed without his supper : and last of all, he must haue *Fortunatus*



## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

*tunatus* or a Prince his purse, that must bee (like a drunkards dagger) euer drawne, to pay bountifully for such wash and graines, as his valiant stomack hith overcome, conquered and deuoured: but of this a little in verse:

*Sixe things vnto a Traueller belongs,  
An Asses backe, t'abide and beare all wrongs:  
A fishes tongue (mute) grudging speech forbearing,  
A Harts quick eare, all dangers ouerhearing.  
A dogs eyes, that must wake as they doe sleepe,  
And by such watch his corpes from perill keepe.  
A swines sweete homely taste, that must digest  
Al Fish, Flesh, Rootes, Fowle, foule and beastly drest;  
And last, he must haue euer at his call  
A purse well lynde with coyne to pay for all.*

With this kinde of lodging and dyer, and with tedious labour sometimes night and day, wee came in 14. dayes 607. miles from *Prague* in *Bohemia*, to *Hambrogh* on the hither skirts of *Germany*, the riuer hauing aboue 1000. shelues and sands, and 800. Ilands, so that a man cannot see on which side of them to goe, there being 240. mills chained in boates on the first streame, and a number numberlesse of Oakes and other trees sunke with the violence of the Riuer, and sometimes fogs and mists that we could not see a boates length from vs: besides great Rocks, and stones that were fallen into the water, that any or many of these impediments do often ouerthrow boats, and drowne passengers; yet I, and my fellow *Tilbery* (wee being both his Maiesties watermen) did by Gods assistance safely escape them all, and brought our selues, as is afore-sayd, to *Hamborough*, where being windebound 10. dayes, I thanke the English Merchants, I was well welcomed, vntill at last it pleased God, the winde came faire, I  
tooke

## Taylor's Travells to Bohemia.

tooke ship, and after 9. dayes and nights of various weather (I giue prayse to the Almighty) I safely came home to my house in *London*, on laterday the 28. of September. 1620.

You that haue bought this, grieue not at the cost,  
Ther's something worth your noting, al's not lost,  
First halfe a Constable is well bumbasted,  
If there were nothing else, your coynes not wasted,  
Then I relate of hills, and dales, and downes,  
Of Churches, Chappels, Pallaces and Townes,  
And then to make amends (although but small)  
I tell a tale of a great Tub withall,  
With many a gallowse, libbit, and a wheele, (heelee;  
where murderers bones are broke, from head to  
How rich Bohemia is in wealth and food,  
Of all things which for man or beast is good.  
How in the Court at Prague (a princely place)  
A gracious Queene vouchsafed me to grace,  
How on the sixteenth day of August last,  
King Frederick to his royall army past,  
How fifty thousand were in armes araid,  
Of the Kings force, beside th' Hungarian ayde,  
And how Bohemia strongly can oppose,  
And cusse and curry all their daring foes.  
Then though no newes of state, may heere be had,  
I know heer's something will make good men glad,  
No bringer of strange tales I meane to be,  
Nor i'le belceene none that are told to me.

FINIS.



C 23802  
40949

SL

PHOTOSTAT FACSIMILE

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

---

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION